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TELECON

Mr. Scotty Reston/The Secretary

October 16, 1975

Time: 6:26 p.m.

RELEASED IN FULL

R: I talked to Silsburger and Grusome and told them what you said to me and what I thought about it and I don't think I got very far but anyway....

K: I appreciate it. As long as they know my views on it. It isn't all that damaging but it isn't intended for public knowledge.

R: It raises an ethical question. It may be embarrassing to you but it is truthful. The point is that there is an invasion of privacy -- that is the issue. Surely you are entitled to express your views about anyone in a private situation.

K: And to someone like the Speaker of the Canadian Parliament whom I would expect to keep it in confidence.

R: Did you say anything that would damage your personal relations?

K: It didn't help me with Nixon -- it seems like a low blow to him. I said what I believe and saying that Kennedy hadn't accomplished anything it true.

R: True, also he was almost in a Congressional crisis when he died.

K: I don't think that helps me with his family.

R: You spoke honestly but sometimes the truth is damaging.

K: I objected to the invasion of my privacy. It wasn't the sort of conversation where I was examining what I said.

R: To be quite cynical -- the Times didn't carry a line of this yesterday because they were beaten to the story. For us to come up and print the text of it, it is because of this.

K: That is waht Binder told my staff.

R: It maybe true but I raised it with them. If you don't print the texts of his speeches why will you print this, I said. Well, o.k. when are you off?

K: At noon tomorrow.

R: For what?

K: A week.

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R: What is the prospect?

K: I am not really -- I think it is an important trip in terms of philosophy and psychology but there probably will be no observable result.

R: I had a talk with Les Gelb who is going with you.

K: He is?

R: Yes. He said something to me which , I don't know where he got it, he says he has a idea that what you are doing is going there in absence of doing anything politically to negotiate sophisticated arms contracts with them.

K: Absolutely wrong.

R: I said it sounds ridiculous to me. The one thing that would stop detente would be to negotiate arms in Peking.

K: There is no list and it is no evasion of what I say. I am not hiding behind some formulation.

R: You had better talk to him on the plane.

K: I hope to see you when we get back.

R: Good. All the best. Goodbye.

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